

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing protection resources in a communications network wherein signaling is sent from a sending end to a receiving end, enabling allocation of protection resources to active resources and including a step of establishing a resource organization ~~or information model~~ made up of protection groups ~~or selectors~~ controlling switching between active resources and protection resources, by means of ~~terminals or connection points~~, wherein said organization ~~or information model~~ includes at least one of (i) groups comprising ~~or using~~ protection resources associated with only a specific one of a sending ~~or~~ and receiving direction and (ii) groups comprising active resources using protection resources associated with only a specific one of a sending and receiving direction.

2. (Currently Amended) A management method according to claim 1, wherein said organization ~~or information model~~ includes a dedicated unidirectional protection group at the receiving end and a dedicated unidirectional protection group at the sending end, each of said unidirectional protection groups using different protection resources and commanding their use independently of each other.

3. (Currently Amended) A management method according to claim 2, characterized in that the two unidirectional protection groups each have specific and distinct characteristics and switching configurations, all the ~~terminals or~~ connection points of the dedicated protection group at the receiving end being receivers and all the ~~terminals or~~ connection points of the dedicated protection group at the sending end being senders.

4. (Original) A management method according to claim 2, characterized in that each of the unidirectional dedicated protection groups contains protection units and protected units, each protection unit being connected to a reliable resource and an unreliable resource.

5. (Currently Amended) A management method according to claim 1, characterized in that, in the case of bidirectional traffic, the organization ~~or information model~~ is made up of a first unidirectional protection group for the receiving end, a second unidirectional protection group for the sending ~~or source~~ end, and a bidirectional protection group comprising said first and second unidirectional protection groups.

6. (Currently Amended) A WDM transmission network wherein signaling is sent from a sending end to a receiving end, said network comprising active resources handling transmission and call set-up and maintenance in normal operation, and additional protection resources which are normally inactive and intended to supplant the active resources in the event of malfunction of said active resources, characterized in that said WDM transmission network manages allocation

of the protection resources to active resources by applying a management method including a step of establishing a resource organization ~~or information model~~ made up of protection groups ~~or selectors~~ controlling switching between active resources and protection resources, wherein said organization ~~or information model~~ includes at least one of (i) groups comprising or using protection resources associated with only a specific one of a sending ~~or~~ and receiving direction and (ii) groups comprising active resources using protection resources associated with only a specific one of sending and receiving directions.